REMARKS

The undersigned sincerely appreciates the time and courtesies extended by Examiner Sergent during the personal interview of November 29, 2006. It is earnestly believed that the discussions during the interview materially advanced prosecution of the subject application. In this regard, the substance of such discussions is adequately reflected in the Examiner's Interview Summary Record and thus further comment on the same is believed to be unnecessary.

By way of the amendment instructions above, the substance of prior claims 2 and 4 have been included in the amended version of claim 1. As such, claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled as redundant.

In addition, claim 1 now requires that the moieties A and X_1 are the same as in formulas (a) and (c). Support for such a revision is evident by the disclosure of each moiety A and X_1 being the same in the discussion on page 10, line 24 bridging page 11, line 12. Specifically, in such passages, it is quite clear that there is no distinction as between moieties A and X_1 when in formula (a) or formula (c). Moreover, it will be noted that species wherein A and X_1 are the same primary coating compositions in the Examples on page 21 of the subject application (e.g., where moiety A is an acrylate and moiety X_1 is a phenolic).

Claims 10 and 11 have been revised as to form so as to provide clear antecedent bases for the expressions therein.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-20 therefore remain pending in this application for which favorable reconsideration and allowance are solicited.

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The only issue to be addressed in this application is the rejection of prior claims 1-20 as allegedly anticipated (35 USC §102(b)) by Szum et al '750. Applicants suggest that the amended version of independent claim 1 is patentable over Szum et al '750. Specifically, it is suggested that Szum et al '750 does not disclose or suggest the subject matter as now defined in the amended version of claim 1. As such, withdrawal of Szum et al '750 as a reference against the claims pending herein is in order.

Every effort has been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance. Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks above, applicant suggests that all claims are in condition for allowance and Official Notice of the same is solicited.

Should any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney so that the same may be resolved without the need for an additional written action and reply.

An early and favorable reply on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ The inclusion in the amended version of claim 1 of the subject matter of prior claims 2 and 4 renders moot the rejections advanced in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the September 22, 2006 Official Action.